

Welcome to New Year 2014 in the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* (*Pol Arch Med Wewn*)

Anetta Undas

Editor-in-Chief, *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine*

The year 2013 was a good year for the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* (*Pol Arch Med Wewn*), the official journal of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine. Our journal has made substantial progress over the last year, as highlighted by an increased impact factor of 1.833, reported in June 2013,¹ which has placed it among the top-ranking Polish life science journals. Over a long history of the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* (the 90th anniversary of the first issue has been celebrated in 2013),² the journal has been “reactivated” proving the significance of internal medicine in Poland and other countries despite the pressure of highly specialized medicine. All this would not have been possible without interesting, well-written papers submitted by our authors and the critical insights provided by our reviewers. Our challenge is to continue to work even harder to further improve the standing of the *Pol Arch Med Wewn*.

I am aware of the fact that remarkable journal proliferation observed in recent years has resulted in an increased impact factor of a vast majority of the major journals, especially those that publish mainly review articles and not original contributions. The aim of the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* is to maintain a large proportion of original articles among the published papers.

In 2013, we published 53 original articles, 21 reviews, 15 letters to the editor, and 21 clinical images. In 2013, we introduced the “Clinical Images” section, which allowed us to publish several interesting and quite diverse reports, which have been very well received by our readers. We also strongly promote our “Letter to the Editor” section as a place for a sort of “post-publication peer review” encompassing insightful comments and suggestions in reference to the published research papers. This type of articles provides a good opportunity for readers to share their views on how a given article impacts the field. As most researchers in the academic world, I have

experienced the exercise of power to quiet a debate rather than support it. We welcome all our readers who want to ask difficult questions and challenge the conclusions drawn by the authors, and whose opinions about the published papers are informed and grounded in science, and encourage them to submit letters to the Editor. Similarly, original articles published in our journal should present novel controversial findings supported by sound methodology. To my view, promoting the best science means to support different opinions and uncertainty as well as to provide pages for contributions that address, or even cause, controversy.

The number of submissions in 2013 reached 341. As a direct result of the increasing number of high-quality papers being submitted, the time from submission to publication has been observed to increase significantly in many journals in recent years, resulting in a delay of more than 6 months from acceptance to publication in print. We are proud of having an average turnaround time from submission to the first editorial decision with reviewers’ comments of 15 days (21 days in 2012) and to the final decision of 36 days (41 days in 2012). Other statistics calculated for all articles published in 2013 are as follows: time from submission to online-first publication of 56 days and to print publication of 86 days. In 2013, we published 121 articles. Of note, our overall acceptance rate substantially decreased to 24.6% in 2013. It is now our primary goal to maintain such impressive results in 2014. We will continue to focus on improving the quality of our journal as well as its 2013 impact factor, which is currently estimated at 1.9.

All our authors directly contribute to the quality of the *Pol Arch Med Wewn*. The top cited articles published in 2013 include original papers that have cross-disciplinary impact and review papers, which are usually cited about twice the average,

Correspondence to:

Prof. Anetta Undas, MD, PhD,
Instytut Kardiologii, Uniwersytet
Jagielloński, Collegium Medicum,
ul. Prądnicka 80, 31-202 Kraków,
Poland, phone: +48-12-614-30-04,
fax: +48-12-423-39-00, e-mail:
mmundas@cyf-kr.edu.pl
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TABLE 1 Most cited papers published in 2013

Janda K, et al. ³
Szapak D, et al. ⁴
Pietruszyński R, et al. ⁵
Nehring P, et al. ⁶
Rechciński T, et al. ⁷
Sarr MG ⁸

TABLE 2 Top reviewers in 2013

Prof. Jolanta Małyszko, MD, PhD
Prof. Tomasz Stompór, MD, PhD
Jarosław Zalewski, MD, PhD
Anna Bednarek-Skublewska, MD, PhD
Prof. Stanisław Czekalski, MD, PhD
Piotr Nehring, MD, PhD

TABLE 3 New members of the National Scientific Board

Member	Affiliation
Prof. Tomasz Brzozowski, MD, PhD	Department of Physiology, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Kraków, Poland
Artur Dziewierz, MD, PhD	2nd Department of Cardiology, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Kraków, Poland
Prof. Piotr Glusko, MD, PhD	Department of Clinical Rheumatology, Institute of Rheumatology, Warsaw, Poland
Prof. Krzysztof Strojek, MD, PhD	Silesian Centre of Heart Diseases, Zabrze, Poland
Prof. Dorota Zozulińska-Ziółkiewicz, MD, PhD	Department of Internal Medicine and Diabetology, Poznań University of Medical Sciences, Raszeja Hospital, Poznań, Poland

and this is consistent with most journals. The articles that received most attention in 2013 are listed in [TABLE 1](#).³⁻⁹

In the July-August 2013 issue of our journal, 3 best student papers were published.¹⁰⁻¹² I am particularly proud of this unique initiative. Its goal is to enable hard-working and talented medical students to present their research to the scientific community and see their first article in print in a journal with an impact factor. I hope that the award winners will be the much-needed future leaders of life science in Poland. The third edition of the student awards has been announced and the deadline for article submission is March 15, 2014.

Of special value is the contribution of several reviewers who have helped us select the best research articles and, by providing valuable comments, greatly improved their quality before final publication. Our 2013 top reviewers' are listed in [TABLE 2](#). I hope that our reviewers will help us remain competitive in terms of publishing the best articles by continuing to provide critical reviews in a timely manner. We are willing to respond to presubmission inquiries regarding whether or not a given manuscript would be suitable for the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* in view of our priorities and other articles that are under review.

In 2014, new colleagues were invited to join our Scientific Board ([TABLE 3](#)). We also bid farewell to Professors Jolanta Kunert-Radek, Józef Małolepszy, Edmund Nartowicz, Janusz Szajewski, and Krzysztof Warzocha, and I would like to express my gratitude for their work and long-term support.

In 2014, the team of the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* will be working to improve the journal's website and incorporate new features and improvements to existing functionality. We are also planning to introduce a plagiarism detection system to our peer-review process. In our review articles, we intend to be more focused on the summaries of recent scientific and/or clinical advances of importance to internal medicine and related areas of basic science research. Our journal provides a means to advance the broad specialty and this task is genuinely a team effort. Without the involvement of the editors, authors, reviewers, readers, and supporters, it would not be possible to achieve these goals.

At the beginning of the New Year 2014, I would like to wish you all success in your research and look forward to your continued contribution to the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* as reviewers and as authors.

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